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## BOOK REVIEWS

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*Commercial Raw Materials: Their Origin, Preparation, and Uses.* By CHARLES R. TOOTHAKER. Boston: Ginn & Co. Pp. 108.

This book contains a concise description relating to the origin, preparation, and uses of over twelve hundred commercial products, accompanied by fifty maps and numerous illustrations showing the sources of raw materials and methods of preparation for the markets.

The grouping adopted is into substances of vegetable, mineral, and animal origin. Under the grouping of plants the ones first described are food-yielding, followed by those yielding both food and fiber, and then those, like the cotton plant, which supply fiber, oil, and cattle food. All materials yielded by one plant are grouped together. This same classification is used, as far as possible, with the substances of animal and mineral origin.

The book was prepared primarily as a work of reference to collections of commercial materials arranged for the schools of Pennsylvania by the Philadelphia museums but should prove a valuable aid to teachers and students interested in commercial geography and the industrial sciences.

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*Rural School Agriculture.* By CHARLES M. DAVIS. New York: Orange Judd Company. Illustrated. Pp. 270. \$1.00.

This book is a manual of 143 exercises on the problems of the farm. These problems embrace such topics as the character and properties of soils, the treatment of various field crops, the testing of seeds, the effect of various chemicals and fertilizers on plants, grafting, transplanting, pruning, and spraying, as well as other more strictly botanical or entomological topics. A series of sixteen suggestive exercises is given for the field and laboratory study of corn. In each exercise the problem is definitely stated and directions are given for its solution.

The teacher who wishes to establish a closer contact between the school and the home life of a rural community will find these exercises very helpful. They show how the laboratory method may be introduced in the study of the questions arising from the pupil's experience on the farm or in the school garden. Most of the work suggested may be done in the ordinary schoolroom or in the field, with easily obtained material and very simple apparatus. The good teacher will use this book to suggest a series of exercises suited to his particular needs rather than as a manual to be placed in the hands of the pupils.

The illustrations are good and add much to the value of the volume.

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